



Atherton Sacred Heart RC Primary School

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Interim Letter Regarding School Closures

5th January 2021

Dear Parents,

First of all, I would like to wish you all a 'Happy New Year'. I know it doesn't feel like it after the speculation over the weekend and the announcement last night.

Thank you for your patience today and over the coming days and weeks, having no wifi in school today and intermittent internet access in the office certainly hasn't helped matters.

Thank you also to all who have been in contact with school to confirm that you require a place as you are classed as a critical worker. If your circumstances change during the week, please contact school to let us know. So far, we have been able to accommodate all requests. However, depending on the guidance and safety criteria which we are yet to receive, this may change and we may have to prioritise or rescind places.

This afternoon, schools within our consortia have had a meeting with Wigan Council regarding last night's announcement of schools being closed to all but the vulnerable and critical workers. There is very little to update you all on, as the guidance relating to this closure will not be released until later in the week after the closures have been passed in parliament (Wednesday). Therefore, what we offer this week, may be different to what we can offer moving forward. For the rest of this week, we are unable to offer Breakfast and After School Clubs. Hopefully, we will be able to resume these next week. This is our aim, but the guidance will determine whether we can or cannot offer this provision.

Wigan Council have asked us to make it clear to governors, parents and staff that this lockdown is not like the previous lockdown in March 2020. Schools are not offering childcare provision. All children, whether in school or not, will be offered remote learning. The provision and work set, where possible, will be the same at home as in school.

For the rest of this week, work will be set in accordance with the current DfE requirements. The work will be on Google Classrooms for children tomorrow. For those who need physical copies, we will contact you to let you know when this is available for you to come and collect.

Attendance in school:

Those who are unable to attend school as they do not meet criteria for attending, will be assigned a different code so that this does not affect their attendance figures.

Currently, we are led to believe, that those children who are deemed vulnerable should be in school, unless they are classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. If your child falls into this category and you choose for them not to attend, then they will be marked as absent. Schools are receiving an updated vulnerable group list later this week. This is accurate at the time of writing this letter. We will of course, work with parents regarding this matter.

Free School Meals:

If you are entitled to 'Free School Meals' through means tested measures (not universal free school meals), you will be able to pick up a grab-bag from school tomorrow and for the rest of this week.

As of next week, Mellors will be providing food boxes in line with national expectations and these will be available for collection from school. More details to follow once we have received them.

Once we have received government guidance, I will update you all on our provision.

Take Care

Kind Regards

Mr McDermott.